



# Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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## **FORMER CALIFORNIA STATE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER AGREES TO 97-MONTH PRISON TERM FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that EARL DEAN McKINNEY, 41, of Fresno, California, pleaded guilty today before Senior United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger to receipt of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. As part of his plea agreement, the defendant agreed to 97-month term in prison followed by a 15-year term of supervised release.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Kings County Sheriff's Department with assistance from the Fresno Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which is comprised of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Fresno, California, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, McKINNEY came to the attention of law enforcement when he attempted to upload several images of child pornography to a Yahoo! account controlled by him. Yahoo! sent a CyberTipline report to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, who forwarded the information to the Kings County Sheriff's Department. A search warrant was executed at McKINNEY's residence, and a computer and numerous storage devices were later determined to contain child pornography. McKINNEY agreed to forfeit all of these items to the United States. McKINNEY admitted that he used the peer-to-peer program Limewire to search for and receive images of

child pornography. At the time, McKINNEY was retired from the United States Navy and worked as a Correctional Officer at the Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga, California.

McKINNEY was remanded into custody today, and the court scheduled McKINNEY's sentencing for October 6, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. At that time the court will consider a number of sentencing factors, including the U.S. Sentencing Commission Sentencing Guidelines, to determine an overall reasonable sentence.

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